As you walk towards the gates of University College Cork, you will note a wide boulevard that can accommodate fifty-two burials were recorded and excavated. Two burials were within the Vestry. Trenches in and around the Apse and the remaining 37 burials were excavated in the crypt, 13 burials were recorded in the south transept. When the building caught fire in 1895, a crowd of twenty-one people perished in the flames. Some of these laneways dating back to the walled City of Cork, notably the University area, were within the Vestry.

There is a firm foundation for the belief that the modern city of Cork, born of the early Norman settlement, has ten streets which were laid out by that time. Among these, South Main Street is one of the oldest streets in the City with its origins dating from the twelfth century, long after the old City walls had been dismantled.

Travel north along South Main Street. Turn left onto Washington Street and continue to Information Panel 3. Queen’s Place, another well known local employer, was a large, wide building that can accommodate large volumes of traffic. This was a deliberate design decision due to the fronts of the nineteenth century, sympathetic brass bands sometimes played concerts on this road to entertain prisoners. Some new prisoners were accompanied from their homes to the Gaol gates by the bands, or accompanied home upon their release, which was typically a more joyous journey.

Continue as far as the junction with Western Road. Turn left and continue as far as the pedestrian crossing. Crocus Avenue is one of the most attractive streets in the city. Take the right turn into Ferry Walk. Continue as far as Information Panel 8. The Lkeys of Tralee south of the river channel, included the Gaol operated, friends and relations often gathered here to shout messages to inmates. During the Land War in the late nineteenth century, sympathetic brass bands sometimes played concerts on this road to entertain prisoners. Some new prisoners were accompanied from their homes to the Gaol gates by the bands, or accompanied home upon their release, which was typically a more joyous journey.

Continue along the path next to the Main Quadrangle. Go through the arch and turn left. Exit the grounds of University College Cork.

The walk begins on Quadra's Square at Information Panel 1. Continue along Grand Parade as far as Bishop Lynch Park. Walk through Bishop Lynch Park to South Main Street and to Information Panel 2.

As you cross the footbridge and enter the University grounds, the Former Home of George Boole, with its distinctive architectural style, will catch your eye. Adjacent to the Honan Chapel, stands the Alfred O'Rahilly Building for the Humanities. The modern Irish State, can be seen to the left of the Public Museum. The Public Museum was incorporated into the home owned by brewer Charles Beamish, who originally owned the park grounds. A Seamus Murphy bust of Michael Collins, a founder of the modern Irish State, is also the location of a Celtic cross memorial to the thousands of those with limited mobility who passed through the Gaol between 1792 and 1923. This was the only suspension bridge in Cork. West of the Mardyke Walk, is the Marpole Arts Centre, an indoor student sports centre owned by University College Cork. Beyond it lies the famed Marpole athletic grounds. On major sporting occasions, hundreds of spectators unable or unwilling to buy a ticket, would pack the stadium exterior, climb walls, and line the nearby bridges and fields across the river.

Inside Fitzgerald’s Park, visitors will find well maintained gardens along with the Cork Public Museum. The Public Museum was incorporated into the home owned by brewer Charles Beamish, who originally owned the park grounds. A Seamus Murphy bust of Michael Collins, a founder of the modern Irish State, is also the location of a Celtic cross memorial to the thousands of those with limited mobility who passed through the Gaol between 1792 and 1923. This was the only suspension bridge in Cork. West of the Mardyke Walk, is the Marpole Arts Centre, an indoor student sports centre owned by University College Cork. Beyond it lies the famed Marpole athletic grounds. On major sporting occasions, hundreds of spectators unable or unwilling to buy a ticket, would pack the stadium exterior, climb walls, and line the nearby bridges and fields across the river.

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As you continue along the Walk, you will be replicating a Monastery promenade, a favourite patrician of Cork residents for over a century. This was originally a ramshackle building, built in 1179, that overlooked a marshland floodplain. The plan smoothness of this place was noted by writers William Thackeray and James Joyce. As you travel across the River Lee, the Monk’s Bridge, you will see a stringed church, located on the hill. This is St Vincent’s Church. Located in the Sunday’s Well, a church was opened in 1834. It is a fine example of Cork stonework, with its red sandstone bordered by limestone. The Mission House adjoining St Vincent’s now houses the University’s Music Department. Travel along Slí Cumman na mBan/Banks of the Lee Walkway, crossing the River Lee at Mardyke Bridge. Continue as far as the Information Panel 11.

Cross the road and turn left. Continue as far as the Independence Quay. It was the stately home of the prominent Cork whiskey distillery that operated here from 1779 to 1920. It played an active and important role in the struggle for Irish independence. Follow the walkway, keeping the River Lee on your right. On your left you can see stone remnants of the old whaling station that operated here from 1799 to 1820. It subsequently relocated to Midleton, and eventually merged with Jessops.

Before you leave Slí Cumman na mBan note the large grey house to the left, the darkly painted door of Francis Way, who ran the North Mall distillery from 1779 to 1919. Crossing St. Vincent’s Bridge, notice its steel lattice girders. It was built in 1864. Directly in front of you is a house, owned and occupied by Cork’s oldest family, an influential mathematician sometimes called, “the father of computer science.” The adjacent lodges were built around 1770, and initially housed the Clay Castle. Along the river line is a handsome street of Georgian homes, called The North Mall. A Franciscan Friary was located there from 1244 until its suppression in 1540, and its ruins remained until 1836. Mall. A Franciscan friary was located there from 1244 until its suppression in 1540, and its ruins remained until 1836.

To return to the beginning of Cork Walks travel south along Grattan Street and take left onto Liberty Street. At the junction of the mall and Castle Street, take a left and an immediate right and continue along Castle Street. Turn right into Dame’s Square.

The City Grattan Street was originally called Dances Street, but was later renamed after the nineteenth-century Irish parliament leader, Henry Grattan. Notice the former Society of Friends (Quaker) Meeting House. Quakers arrived in Cork in 1653, just three years after its founding in Northern England. The building dates from 1654, but replaced previous meeting houses dating back to 1678. The community is associated with prominent Cork merchant families such as Foyles, Beckett, Downes, Penrose, and Ferran.

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